

## NEW SOURCE OF RADIUM.

English Engineer Says There is Case in Portugal.

That the recent discovery of rich ore deposits in Portugal will make possible for the first time the manufacture of radium in quantities sufficiently large for commercial use is the assertion of Harry March, a young English civil engineer, who has come to this country in the hope of interesting American scientists and American capital in the Portuguese mines. He has brought with him a boxful of ore, specimens of which have been examined by mineralogists here and abroad, who declare that the mineral contains large quantities of crystalline uranite, or what is technically known as autunite, the substance from which radium is extracted.

Professor James F. Kemp, head of the department of geology at Columbia, and other members of the staff have seen some of the specimens.

According to one analyst, Allen P. Walden of the chemical department of Oxford university, who subjected the mineral to the usual scientific tests for radium, it is estimated that the ore contains nearly 720 milligrams of radium to the ton, a new record. The ore itself he found to be made up of quartz thickly encrusted with yellow crystals. These crystals when examined proved to contain uranium, calcium and phosphoric acid, and there was no trace of other metallic or acid impurities.

Up to the time of the discovery of the Portuguese deposits the chief ore from which radium was extracted was pitchblende, considerable quantities of which are found in Bohemia and in Cornwall, England. The amount of radium producing material in this substance, according to Mr. March, is about 6 per cent, whereas the ore obtained from Portugal has been tested and found to contain 33 per cent of oxide of uranium. E. B. Barboni, a French chemist, after subjecting the new mineral to careful tests, declared that by reason of the ease with which it could be treated it was in his opinion "at least three times superior as raw material to pitchblende."

## COUNTRY BANKS THE BEST.

Young Men Find There Greatest Opportunities, Says Chicagoan.

"Young man, go to the country if you want a thorough groundwork for a financial career. Shun the big city bank, where you are liable to get into a departmental groove and go no higher."

Joseph T. Talbert, president of the Chicago Clearing House association and first vice president of the Commercial National bank of Chicago, was talking of the reasons as he saw them for his being called to New York as a vice president of the National City bank when he gave this advice to young men.

Mr. Talbert attributes his success to the fact that he was trained in a country institution and says that he "rubbed elbows with the farmer."

"In the banking business, as well as in any line of trade, the man who knows his customers, their habits and peculiarities, is going to get the best results. I have never regretted that my start was in the country bank. It was a good school, and no young man who is in earnest will have cause for regret if he takes a course in it."

## POLE FINDER CONFESSES.

Professor Phelps of Yale, Drawn by a Sawhorse, Reaches World's Top.

Professor William Lyon Phelps of Yale says that he is the only original discoverer of the north pole. He describes it in the following letter:

At latitude 87 I made my final dash, consisting of a few parenthetical remarks on the weather. I hitched the span, the sawhorse and the pony, to a new backboard wagon, cutting off the tongue, so that I might be the first to announce my discovery. Ten miles had swiftly flown by, when the pony, thinking that the sawhorse was a sea-horse, tried to eat him. The pony naturally resented this, and the team, already frightened by the narrowness of the meridian lines and by the spectacle of a large fountain penguin, became unmanageable.

The two faithful Eskimos were thrown out and were immediately devoured by polar bears, who, seeing their long beards, took them for arctic hairs, esteemed a great delicacy by these animals. I was pitched high in the air and landed on the small of my back, thus discovering not only the pole, but the whiffetree. At this moment my right ascension was about ten seconds, my declination, so far as any future attempts are concerned, was final and absolute. Yours very truly,

WILLIAM LYON PHELPS.

## Luck of an Inventor's Wife.

Mrs. Thomas A. Edison recovered a diamond ring worth \$1,100 which she gave up as lost six years ago. The young man who found it at that time had kept it ever since, believing it to be without value. He was rewarded with a check and the promise of a job, something he was in want of. Robert F. McCarthy of 52 Mount Vernon avenue, Orange, found the ring when he was a student in St. John's school six years ago. He was absent-

putting in Llewellyn park, west Orange, N. J., not far from the Edison home, and he picked it up from among the leaves by the roadside.

## Insurance Policy Slot Machines.

Peanuts and accident insurance policies can now be obtained from slot machines. There is enough money to be made from vending them to induce men associated with the Standard Oil company to organize a million dollar concern to manufacture and place the slot machines. It is expected that this company will in time control all slot machines that have anything to sell.

## FATHER AGAINST SON.

Novel Contest Between the Gardners For Buffalo Golf Championship.

Mr. W. Allen Gardner of the Country club of Buffalo won the city championship on the Park club links recently. The runner up was his seventeen-year-old son, Hamilton Gardner. This was the unique result of the play that eliminated all other contestants in a field of nearly 100 entrants. Never before in this country has a father faced a son in the final of a city championship contest. The unusual situation attracted the greatest interest among golfers, and the press of the city featured the match in prominent headlines.

Allen Gardner, the new champion, has for years been a star member of the Country club team and has played in many tournaments in this and other states as well as in Canada. His prowess as a golfer is well known, and from the first he was considered a likely candidate for championship honors in the city tournament. But no one thought of Hamilton in that connection. The youngster has been playing the game only a couple of years, but his advancement has been so rapid that his father openly confessed his fear of the result when the final test came.

That his fears were well grounded was shown at the very start of the match, when the boy won the first two holes and, after halving the third, won the fourth, making him 3 up. It looked very much at this stage as if the son was about to make a runaway game of it. He was clearly playing the better golf and showed absolute confidence, without a sign of nervousness. The large gallery that followed in the wake of the strangely matched pair, which was composed of Mr. Gardner's old golfing friends, could with difficulty refrain from chaffing the father on his impending defeat; but, of course, they restrained themselves, although their amusement must have been perfectly obvious to the exasperated sire.

Hamilton was 2 up at the turn and going as smoothly as silk. But at this juncture the "old man" took a mental brace and proceeded to close up the gap in the score. Right at the tenth hole he started his golf, winning it in 3 to Hamilton's 4. As the bogie is 5, it can be seen that the pair were straining every nerve. They went along in bogie to the twelfth, which Allen won in one stroke under the colonel's pattern. For the first time in the match they were all square. The "kid" took the thirteenth in 4, but Allen evened up by winning the next hole. The father annexed the next two holes and held this advantage to the end, winning by 2 up. This ended the most novel contest for the city championship that Buffalo will ever see, in all probability.—American Golfer.

## HAVE YOUR CHILD TESTED.

Clark University Will Tell You if Anything is Wrong With It.

Secretary Henry S. Curtis, of the Child Conference for Research and Welfare Instituted at Clark university at Worcester, Mass., as the first department of its kind in this country, is being flooded with inquiries from parents in all parts of the country who desire to have their children examined by the new methods.

The purpose of the department is to gather statistics as to the best methods of promoting the health, happiness and welfare of children and form child welfare organizations. The endeavor also will be to determine in what points children are weakest morally or physically.

The head of the department, directly under Dr. G. Stanley Hall, president of Clark university, is Dr. Curtis, formerly of Washington, who has been engaged all his life in child welfare work.

The department has not been long enough organized to show results, and it is not definitely known how it is to be received by the child welfare organizations of the country, but from the number of letters received lately concerning it Dr. Curtis thinks it will leap into popularity at once.

Parents who have children with physical or moral defects may have them examined. "The chief purpose of the organization," said Dr. Curtis, "is to coordinate the work of child welfare in-

stitutions and especially to provide workers in these various fields who desire it with the latest results of scientific child study that bear upon their work. One of the most valuable features of the work will be to provide parents, teachers and others who have the responsibility of the care of children with the results of the scientific study of children."

## SEWED UP FOR THE WINTER.

Foreign Mothers in Philadelphia Imitate the Eskimos.

"Foreign mothers in Philadelphia have made it a practice to sew their children's clothes so they would remain on all winter."

That was the statement made before the American Humane association in convention in St. Paul by Miss Mary F. Lovell of Philadelphia, who said that drastic steps had been necessary to stop the practice with regard to pupils in the public schools.

## AN INTELLECTUAL MARVEL.

Harvard's New Eleven-year-old Student is a Mental Wonder.

William J. Skidis, the eleven-year-old boy admitted to Harvard university as the youngest matriculate in the long history of the institution, could spell, read and write at the age of two. He became deeply absorbed in books when other children were playing in the sand and making houses of blocks. He devoured everything readable that he could lay his hands on, and when he had advanced to the age of five his yearning for knowledge had also advanced to such a state that he began taking books from the Brookline (Mass.) Public Library.

When he was six he was sent to the Runkle school. The school authorities placed him in one of the higher grammar grades, but withdrew him after six months, for he knew more than they taught at that school, and it would have been a waste of time to have kept him longer with the other pupils.

When he was eight years old he was sent to the Brookline high school, one of the best in the country, for it is supported by the richest town in the world. He remained there five months. That was long enough, for he was then further advanced than the school.

He evinced a strong liking for mathematics and physics at the age of eight and was greatly interested in astronomy and other sciences. At that early age he was ready for college, but his parents declined to send him to the higher institutions, as they were of the opinion that their son would do more thorough work at home. He was allowed to study whenever he wished and whenever he liked. He was never forced along any particular line.

This remarkable boy has been a puzzle to scientists, astronomers and mathematicians. He prefers the company of men and women who gather at his home, who are on an intellectual footing with him, to the boys of the neighborhood. He discusses advanced sciences with the learning of a professor.

When a boy of eight he spoke four languages. As a freshman at the Brookline high school he made astronomical calculations which puzzled professors in mathematics, invented a new system of logarithms in series of twelves instead of tens, prepared an outline of advanced grammar and helped pupils in classes above him to master their lessons.

## COOK FOUND SANTA CLAUS.

At Any Rate, He Told a Little Chicago Girl He Made Discovery.

It was left to a little Chicago girl to discover the real object of Dr. Cook's and Commander Peary's heroic marches to the north pole. It was to call on Santa Claus, of course.

Jeanie McDonald, the tiny daughter of Isaac McDonald, found this out and wrote to Dr. Cook, addressing her letter North Pole, Brooklyn, asking him to please tell her what kind of a house Kris Kringle lived in. She wrote:

Dear Dr. Cook—Did you see Santa Claus at the north pole? What kind of a house did he live in? Yours truly,

JEANIE McDONALD.

Dr. Cook has replied in part as follows:

"See Santa Claus? Why, of course I did. That's just why I went to the north pole. I went there to make sure that Santa Claus would not be angry at some of our grownups and big bad boys who have made fun of him and said they did not believe in him anyway."

"I found him in a huge snow palace, and every room from top to bottom was crowded with toys and candy and great big packages of good will and kindness and love for little boys and girls. And there were special packages, happiness and content and good fellowship, for the grownups."

"He looks just like his pictures too. He is always smiling, even when he is working hard loading his sleighs with his good things for the people down here. And he knows his reindeer al-

ways ready for trips around to see what the children will be needing at his next visit, and, although we were very hungry when we got there, we could not kill any of Santa Claus' animals, because he said that would prevent him from making all the calls he had to make among his children.

"See Santa Claus? Yes, indeed."

## Our Largest Wooden Vessel.

The largest wooden vessel ever built in the United States and the largest sailing vessel of American registry will be launched from a Bath (Me.) shipyard on Dec. 14. This new leader of her class is the six masted schooner Wyoming, and her official measurements give her a gross tonnage of 3,730, thus placing her ahead of the schooner William L. Douglas, the present title holder, with a gross tonnage of 3,708. The Wyoming is 350 feet long over all, 329.5 feet keel and 30.4 feet deep.

## Worked Eleven Years For \$10.

H. Buckley of Spokane and Fred Sodenberg of Seattle have reached Port Townsend after prospecting eleven years for gold in the interior of Alaska without seeing civilization. A small pack of furs and a spoonful of nuggets worth \$10 are all they have for their eleven years' work.

## Pastors to Select Jurymen.

To improve the class of jurymen the court at Wilkesbarre, Pa., has asked clerymen of the county to send in lists of men they recommend. The pastors will send in names picked from their congregation and expect to eliminate politics from juries.

## Hawk and Weasel in Death Duel.

A hawk and weasel were after the same hen in Elston Trowbridge's farm yard at Fairfield, N. J., when the hawk got the weasel by mistake. The weasel clung to the hawk, and they fought in midair until they dropped and killed each other on the ground.

## GRIM GAME IN RUSSIA.

Little Lads Play at "Trial" and Almost Execute a Comrade.

A letter from Cherson, Russia, in describing an execution, says that military trials and the speedy executions which follow them have been of such common occurrence that the public mind has become blunted. "Sentenced to death and executed" has become a stock phrase, and the oft repeated gallows stories have influenced the minds of children to such an extent that they have a game called "trial," in which the brutalities of which they have heard are enacted. The writer says that the playing of this game by a number of boys in that town, none of whom was more than thirteen years old, nearly resulted in the death of one little fellow who had been selected to play the part of the prisoner. He was tried, found guilty and sentenced to be executed. Only the timely interference of elders prevented the tragedy.

## WIRELESS ACROSS PACIFIC.

Steamship Minnesota Sent the Hawaiian Waves 3,628 Miles.

The Great Northern steamship Minnesota, plying between Seattle and the Orient, was in communication with the Seattle and Japanese wireless stations every night during her last trip. She exchanged messages with the Seattle station of the United Wireless company until she was 3,628 miles on her way to Yokohama. This establishes a new record between ship and shore. The distance is greater than from Nova Scotia to the Irish coast, between which messages are occasionally sent by means of high powered wireless apparatus from towers of great altitude.

To appreciate the significance of the Minnesota's wireless performance it should be understood that the messages were sent from the ordinary ship's aerial and that the apparatus is of only five kilowatt power, instead of the fifty kilowatt power now used to transmit messages between the Nova Scotia and Irish coasts.

## Paris Apaches' Trained Dogs.

The newest pet of the Paris suburban districts is the "Apache dog," which is taught by its masters to jump at lonely pedestrians and bite them while the hoodlums ride the victim's pockets. It appears that, taking a hint from the police methods, the Apaches have recently trained several animals of the same breed as the police dogs to attack policemen and others.

## Churches to Advertise.

After the fashion of big business advertisers, the combined Protestant churches of this country will early in January begin a campaign to advertise social, racial, economic and religious problems which imperil American life and American institutions. The advertising will be by newspapers, magazines, periodicals, posters, billboards and literature.

## BATTLESHIP OF CONCRETE.

One is on El Fraile Island at the Mouth of Manila Bay.

One of the most unusual defensive works in the world has been erected by the war department on El Fraile island, one of the four islands which form a chain across the mouth of Manila bay. All these islands have been strongly fortified in order to prevent a foreign fleet from entering the bay. On El Fraile island has been built a fixed battleship of concrete having two steel turrets in each of which are mounted two fourteen-inch guns. These turrets can be trained in any direction by the gun crew inside.

The original plan for the fortification of El Fraile contemplated the enlargement of the island, which is small and narrow and the establishment of an ordinary fort. This plan, however, was abandoned in favor of the concrete battleship, which has been practically completed. The fourteen inch guns mounted in turrets on El Fraile are operated by the general fire control station on Corregidor island.

The artificial concrete ship is about a hundred feet wide and 1,200 feet long.

## Walnuts Growing on Oak Trees

The superintendent of public instruction of California, Edward Hyatt, returned recently to Sacramento from San Andreas, Calaveras county, where he found walnuts growing on oak trees. The experiment is being conducted successfully by E. M. Price, who has a large number of new species about his home. The nuts, according to Hyatt, grow about three times as large as the ones in the markets. The product is the result of considerable experimenting. The grafting is done by cutting the limbs of walnut trees and grafting them into stocky oaks.

## San Francisco Wants World's Fair.

With the success of the Portola festival barely over, the citizens of San Francisco have enthusiastically taken up the suggestion made by Mayor Taylor that the city commemorate the opening of the Panama canal in 1915 with a gigantic world's fair.

## THE LURE OF THE ARCTIC.

After One Experience It Outweighs Love of Home or Money.

Polar life brings strange revelations. A man who is a model of amiability at home is a savage in those high latitudes, where Mother Nature and humanity seem bent on revealing their crudest characteristics. When a man goes to the arctic first he dislikes it. If he is caught there one winter he vows to himself that he will never repeat the adventure. Yet when he gets back home he discovers that the "white silence" has a compelling fascination. I have never known a man who could resist the chance to go again, even at a financial loss. After twenty years of experience, if another opportunity came to me, it is doubtful whether any consideration would prevent my taking up the work again.

Once the charm of those long months of daylight, the mysterious, deathly silence of those long nights, the white glare of that brilliant moonlight across trackless wastes of snow and ice, has been felt a man is unable to resist the siren call of the north that has become more to him than family, home, friends or money. Gladly he takes his life in his hands and fares forth again into those frozen seas.—Captain Coffin, of Ziegler Polar Expedition, in National Magazine.

## TO WIN IN FOUR ROUNDS.

Jim Jeffries Dreamed Twice That He Had Knocked Out Jack Johnson.

Jim Jeffries, the pugilist who is matched to fight Jack Johnson for the heavyweight championship of the world, will knock out the negro pugilist in the fourth round of their mill if dreams are made of real stuff. Jeffries recently told his parents while visiting them at Springfield, Ill., that he dreamed twice of the coming mill and each dream found him winner by the knockout route in the fourth round.

Just after the articles were signed Jim dreamed he had won by a knockout in the fourth, he told Sam Berger, his manager. In Akron soon afterward Jeffries again dreamed of the fight, with the same result. It is a long swing that is to put out Johnson, according to the dream stuff.

## New Cod Bank.

A new "cod bank" in the gulf of St. Lawrence, off the west coast of Newfoundland, has been discovered by the Canadian government survey ship Elnor. The new bank is situated about twenty-five miles northwest from Point Rigo (the northwest point of Ingonachoir bay) and is reported to be about twenty-eight miles long and ten to twelve miles wide. The least depth of water over the bank is said to be about eighteen fathoms. Cod are reported to be in abundance.